

**REMARKS**

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of the pending claims.

In response to the Examiner's further rejection of FIG. 22, Applicant resubmits herewith the corrected drawing sheet filed August 7, 2002, including Figs. 20, 21 and 22. The resubmitted Fig. 22 has been further corrected by adding arrows on the lead lines from 282 and 286 to more clearly indicate the major elements of the modular assembly 280, that is, the table segment 282 and flitch table 286. Applicant submits that with the corrections, Fig. 22 illustrates more clearly the cross-section taken transversely across a flitch table with a modular assembly 280, and the tongues 296 of the table segment 282 as retained within the grooves 298, which are formed along the inside sidewalls of the flitch table 286.

The specification has also been amended at page 26. With the corrected drawings and the description of the specification from page 26, line 12 through page 28, line 9, the disclosure will clearly provide one skilled in the art a clear comprehension of the physical relationships of the coupling assembly and the flitch table.

For example, Fig. 22 illustrates in cross-section the table segment 282 engaged within the grooves 298 of the flitch table 286 by the tongues 296 formed along its sides, which comprise a tongue-and-groove coupling of the table segment 282 with the flitch table 286, and the specification as amended above states,

The present invention, as illustrated in Fig. 22, overcomes the changeover problem by modularizing the flitch retaining apparatus. In particular, a modular assembly 280 includes a table segment 282, shown in cross-section, and a flitch table 286, also shown in cross-section, and means 284 for coupling the table segment 282 to the flitch table 286 as shown in Fig. 22. The means 284 for coupling the table segment 282 to the flitch table 286 comprises a tongue and groove arrangement, which includes tongues 296 formed on the sides of the table segment 282 and grooves 298 formed in the inside surfaces of the flitch table 286 to receive the tongues 296 of the table 282, as shown in Fig. 22. The resulting modular assembly 280 includes a mounting surface 288, formed to include pin dog-receiving apertures 290 and pusher pin receiving slots 232, and a back surface 294 formed to include a pusher bar-receiving channel 228.

As shown in Fig. 22, the means 284 for coupling the table segment 282 to the table 286 includes tongues 296 formed on the table segment 282 and complementary grooves 298 sized and configured to receive the tongues 296. The tongue and groove arrangement permits easy installation and removal of the modular assembly 280. In changeover, the table segment 282 is positioned so that its tongues 296 can enter and slide into the grooves 298 formed in flitch table 286, thus coupling the table segment 282 to the flitch table 286. Although a tongue and groove arrangement is shown, it will be appreciated that other mechanisms, such as fasteners and retainers, can be used to couple the modular assembly to the table.

Applicant submits this application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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